

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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THE RYERSON COLLECTION

By J. C.

(Sent in by Charles Jonas and J. H. Ambruster)

The Joseph T. Ryerson Steel Co. was busily celebrating its 100th anniversary, but Joseph T. Ryerson, grandson of the founder, took time out to lead us into his office, withdraw from his private files what looked like a secret document, sit down at his desk and began to read:

"Going to Chicago, eh?"

"Yes, sir."

"Great village. Beats all creation. New York isn't in it with Chicago. Chicago's got hustle, bustle, rush, go, snap, vim and other things too numerous to mention. It is destined to be the metropolis of the new world. You're from the East?"

"Yes."

"I knew it. You wear it all over you. Bet you say She-car-go. My name is De Lancey Duncan. Sorry I haven't a card. If we're going to be seatmates, let's be sociable. What's your name?"

"Frank Merriwell."

Mr. Ryerson removed the file cover from the document and passed it over the desk to us. It turned out to be Vol. 1, No. 14, of the Tip Top Library, dated July 18, 1896. It had cost 5 cents when fresh off the press and now is a collector's item. The title of the thriller that week was "Frank Merriwell in Chicago; or, Meshed by Mysteries," which is the reason Mr. Ryerson has it. His hobby is Chicagoana. His own museum contains a choice collection of maps, booklets, lithographs, pamphlets, theater and concert programs having to do with Chi-

cago before and after the fire.

Nickel and dime novels, though, are what make his eyes sparkle, provided the scene is laid here. Has to be careful, too, he says, because the publishers were not above a trick in those days. That is, they would print various editions of the same story, one for each large city. Street names and references to well known landmarks were scrupulously omitted, so that the one book would do for all localities, with only the cover changed. Naturally, Mr. Ryerson has had to read those he placed among his treasures in order to make sure of their bona fides and he reports, with satisfaction, that some of them are hair raisers.

One of his rarest items is a paper-backed volume called "Luke Darrell: The Chicago Newspaper Boy." It was published in 1866, or during the Civil War, and is believed the first of all books of its kind with a local background. No. 25 of the Young Rover Library, printed in 1905, is entitled "Link Rover in Chicago; or, 'Making Things Fairly Hum.'" Its cover, in colors, shows a vignette of Link, "The American Harkaway," and the rest of the space is occupied by a circus scene, showing a performing bear wearing boxing gloves and a red apron kayoing a man dressed as an alligator. The story is pretty breath-taking, the collector said, but no more so than told in a copy of Beadle's Half Dime Library, called "The Actor Detective in Chicago," or the New York Detective Library's "Monte, the French Detective in Chicago," by Police Captain Howard.

Altogether, there are 150 pieces in the collection, all of them picturing

our city as a place of wickedness and evil but also—and Mr. Ryerson finds this cheering, as did the readers of other days—where virtue and right thinking are bound to prevail in the end.

—Chicago Daily News.

THE BUFFALO BILL STORIES PUBLISHED BY BEADLE

The Buffalo Bill stories published by Beadle, were written by Major John A. Burke, his publicity man, assisted by Mrs. Cody. This information is given to us by a friend who knew Major Burke and Mrs. Cody very well—who worked with Buffalo Bill in his show for a number of years. He not only got this information direct from Mrs. Cody, but actually saw the manuscripts at the old Cody ranch. He gives us the following pen picture of Burke:

"Major Burke was really a phony Westerner; he never was within miles of a hostile Indian in his life. Even his title of Major was phony, as he never was in the Army. BUT HE WAS no doubt the greatest Circus publicity agent ever known, gifted with a vivid imagination; he could reel off yarns that would make ones hair curl, and at the same time, he was the most independent person on earth, always ready to help, giving freely of his money, oftentimes to those unworthy and unappreciative.

"He came to the end of the trail, sick, dead broke and still too independent to accept charity—as he called it—and passed over to the new pastures, with his head up as he had lived."

The writer of the above is a real Westerner, with life of adventure worthy of any dime novel, as active mentally now as he was 50 years ago.

EXCLUSIVELY ENGAGED

(This is taken from page 4 of the New York Weekly, November 25, 1872).

New York, Oct. 25, 1872

Messrs. Street & Smith:—A young correspondent inquires: "What is the name of your next story in the New York Weekly? Do you write for any other paper?" As there may be others among your readers interested, I will ask leave to answer through your

columns. My next story, which will be placed in your hands next week, is called, "The Western Boy." It traces the career of a smart New York street boy, who is led to leave the great city for a home in the West. It follows him step by step through many adventures in his upward progress, till he reaches a high position of official trust. I venture to commend it to the thousands of my young friends and readers of the West, as well as of the East, persuaded that it will teach them a valuable lesson of the importance of hard work and mainly self-reliance. In answer to the second question, let me say that I write for no other paper than the New York Weekly, having been exclusively engaged by Messrs. Street & Smith for a term of years. I hope to meet the hundreds of thousands of young readers of the New York Weekly at frequent intervals, and shall devote the best talents which I possess to their entertainment and instruction.

Yours truly,
Horatio Alger, Jr.

NEWSIES AND NOTES

By Ye Editor

The first 17 Nos. of Golden Hours were all Love Stories and taken from Arm Chair and Family Story Paper. Boys stories started with No. 18.

It is rumored that The National Weekly Story, Fox's Illustrated Weeks Doings, 1883, Nos. 1 to 82, is worth \$200.00. They are very rare and scarce. Margaret Fuller was born Feb. 15th, 1789, and died July 31st, 1859. She was a great book writer.

Caroline Orme, who wrote for the Flag of Our Union, and Ballou's magazine, was born Sept. 5th, 1818, and died Feb. 7th, 1905.

Diamond Dick, or The Educated Mule appeared in Vol. 36, No. 7, Dec. 27, 1880; and Diamond Dick, or The Sarpint of Siskiyou County, in Vol. 33, No. 21, April 3rd, 1878. Both were written by Delta Calaveras in the New York Weekly. Will B. Schwartz wrote Monte Madrona, or The Mystic Ten, under the name of Delta Calaveras.

Miss M. E. Braddon boiled down all of the English novels published in Beadles Dime and Half Dime Libraries and Gustave Aimard's stories.

Roving Ben in No. 40, and The Outlaw Brothers in No. 97 of Beadles Half Dime Library were the only stories John J. Marshall ever wrote in that line, as he was a higher class writer.

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

Robert Burns, 17 So. Smallwood St., Baltimore, Md., Member No. 84, had some tough luck a short time ago. His car was stolen from in front of his house, and three days later he got it back. They swiped one tire and run the car on a flat, so that means that tire is gone, and ruined yet another. Bob will have to borrow, beg or steal, in order to get tires for his machine, the way conditions are now.

We've lost one of our old time members, remember him—Guy Baumgardner, Oak Grove, and later, Grain Valley, Mo. He died May 23, 1942. He was a great reader, and had several thousand novels on hand at one time, also several tons of old magazines. Cancer of the stomach was the cause of poor Guy's death. God bless you, take care of you, and keep you.

George French says he has to laugh at the way some old timers get around. He had a copy of the Temperance Library that he sold to Charles Austin, then ye editor of Newsy News bought it, and kept it a while, then Charles Austin bought it back and sold it to the original owner, George French, who in turn sold it to a Western collector who saw a photo of it. George is wondering if it will come back to him again this trip. Quite a traveler. Charles Austin traded a Beadles Dime Library off some 40 or 45 years ago, with his name written on it in ink, and in a trade for some stuff a while ago, he got that same novel back again, so you see, it did some traveling since Charlie was a kid.

The famous Doc O'Brien of New York City that had the great Dime Novel sale in 1922 at the Anderson Galleries has been paralyzed since Dec. 13, 1941. He is 64 years old, and to think a thing like that should happen to him.

Mildred Cummings DeOrsey, sister of ye editor, Ralph Cummings, died Nov. 3rd, after an illness that started three years ago. At one time she

weighed over 300. When she died she weighed 90 pounds. Quite a come down. She was 41 when she died, and was the wife of Ernest DeOrsey, one time member of the H. H. Brotherhood. She left him and five children. God Bless Her. (Our father died April 4th, 1937).

George Barton says—The Aldine Land and Sea Library was mostly a series of reprints of Beadles Dime Library, only printed in 64 page pocket size. Some titles are: "The Fresh of Frisco," "Buffalo Bill, the Mustang King," "Joe Phoenix's Great Man Hunt," "The Spotter Chief," etc. These sold at 2d. Boys First-Rate Pocket Library was a 32 page colored cover reproduction using Beadles Half Dime stories, such as "Deadwood Dick series," "Gipsy Jack, of Jintown," "Blonde Bill," "Humbolt Harry, the Hurricane," etc. and sold for 1d.

These two items are worthy of American collectors, if only for the vivid woodcut colored color illustrations.

The Aldine Publishing Co., were probably the most prolific borrowers of American stories—more than making up for Leslies and Touseys act of borrowing of English stories. On looking over a copy of Wide Awake Library catalogue, was found that about 200 English titles which Tousey had borrowed from Bretts and Emmetts publications. Our collectors pretend that they don't care for English stuff, but fall all over themselves to buy Wide Awakes containing them.

Just received a tip that a catalogue is in the making, and will be out very shortly on the original Dime Novels of long ago. It's going to be a whiz. I understand, and Edward Morrill, 144 Kingston St., Boston, Mass., is bringing it out. We're all in a fluffer to see it, Ed.

George French of Bloomfield, N. J. stopped in here at the home of the Dime Novel Round-Up on his way home from Keezer Falls, Maine, where he had been since May. Ye editor and George made some fine trades. George came in Nov. 15th and left the 16th.

Edwin Sissung and his bride-to-be, from Coopersburg, Pa., came in the 17th, and got the surprise of their lives, when they saw such an innocent looking place from the out-

side, which looked like an old fashioned small farm, but what a surprise the had when they saw the inside of this place. They never saw so many books and novels in their lives. It was worth their trip just to see them.

What are your favorites that are all falling apart from old age, fellows? Send them to George Barton, and when you get them back you'll think you've received new novels. It's wonderful the way he fixes them up, and well worth what he asks to do it.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

In the Oct. 1942 Round-Up.

Nos.

1. Arietta Murdock.
2. Francis Worcester Doughty.
3. Beadles Dime & Half Dime Libraries.
4. Pluck & Luck, Wild West, Secret Service, Work & Win, Fame & Fortune, and the Liberty Boys of 76.
5. Beadles Dime Novels, New Dime Novels, New and Old Friends.
6. William J. Benners, Jr.

Not many seem to be interested in the Quiz, so will lay off for a while.

BANDITS THINK THEY ARE THE JAMES BOYS

(Sent in by Wm. M. Claggett.)

Police are looking for a couple of Notorious Criminals. A short time ago the Tutewiller Printing Shop, 403 East Bay St., Jacksonville, Fla., was entered through an unlocked rear window. The owners reported nothing missing but found this note: "Jessie James and Frank James, The Seckond. Catch us if you can. Love, Jesse and Frank. Love till another time."

Jacksonville Union Times.

PARTIAL LIST OF ALL 1942 AND 43 MEMBERS

Nos.

10. L. C. Skinner, 36 Chaplin St., Pawtucket, R. I.
16. Robert Frye, Morgan Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
34. Edward LeBlanc, 636 N. Main St., Fall River, Mass.
38. Carl Linville, 2734 Madison Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
48. A. Friend.
54. Wm. B. McCafferty, 1212 Denver Ave., Fort Worth, Texas.

100. D. D. Anderson, 3544 W. Nabausia Ave., Chicago, Ill (new member).
102. Samuel Oenhausen, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio.
106. Clarence D. Lamb, P. O. Box 424, Salina, Kansas.
113. James H. Van Demark, 113 Vliet St., Cohoes, N. Y.

"DeWitts Good Book Series" No. 1, published some time in the early 1860's, size 5x7 $\frac{1}{4}$. Tinted light yellow covers, 48 pages, sold for 10c per copy. Well illustrated, picture on front cover showing an Indian in back of a tree shooting at a middle aged man dressed in buckskin, in back of another tree, 100 feet away. Title "The Scouts of the West, or the Rifle and the Tomahawk." No authors name mentioned. This is a real prize and a beauty too. Published by Clinton T. DeWitt, brother of Robert, No. 33 Rose St., New York, N. Y.

Send all of Edward LeBlanc's mail in care of his father Tilman LeBlanc (an old time member) as Edward is now in the Army. Same address.

One of our fellow readers and contributors to this magazine, has embarked on a new career at the request of the President of the United States. He will now be known as Prvt. Edwin Brooks. He will continue writing for this publication from army camp, time, duties, etc. permitting. We shall look forward to hearing from him after "he has taken care of the enemy"! Good luck soldier Brooks! Readers may write to him in care of home address: 1528 South Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and his brother will forward them to his camp.

WHO HAS

A Copy of Police Gazette with an item on an old time bar-keeper that invented a cocktail, then called Manhattan, if not mistaken, and written by Gus or Augustus Orphall some time in 1895 or 1896. Will give a dollar for this Number.

Write—

YE EDITOR OF ROUND-UP

MERRIWELL'S OUT OF DATE**By Charles Fisher**

(Phila. Record, June 8, 1942)

Bart Hodge Teaches Inza to Weld

The 5 o'clock whistle at the Jenkins Grommeting and Plate Bending Works had just stared to blow when a handsome, sturdy youth approached the employees' entrance, bade the gate-tender a courteous "good afternoon," and started through with athletic stride.

"Hey you," said the gateman, seizing him by the shoulder in comradely fashion, "what do you want?" Where's your badge?"

"Badge?" queried Frank Merriwell (for the sturdy youth was indeed he). "ould you mean the medal I won for hurling the Fardale Academy nine to victory in the spring of volume 23? I have no other. I have called here for my fiancée, Miss Inza Burrage, whom you will doubtless remember as—"

"A wise guy, eh?" observed the gateman as, with a merry smile, he tossed the clean-cut fellow on to an adjacent pile of cinders. Frank, chuckling, to perceive the prank was "on him," started to brush himself off. At that moment a winsome lass in crepe de chine overalls with flounced peplum and jabot of organdie stopped and peered down at him.

"Why Frank," cried she, tucking a welder's mask away in her reticule, "what a delightful surprise! But whatever are you doing down in all them ashes?"

"That is neither here nor there," replied Frank with manly dignity. "But, not having seen you since the last volume, and learning recently that you are engaged in defense work, it occurred to me that you might be interested in changes in the Fardale nine for this season. I shall occupy 'the mound,' as usual, of course while out at first ba—"

"You bet, kid," said Miss Burrage, snapping her gum daintily, "but can that stuff for a while. I mean, eager as I am to be appraised of your chances for the coming season, I would prefer that you postpone your fascinating account of the glorious outlook. I got a date to get outside a scuffle of suds with Mr. Hodge down at Joe's place."

"Not Bart Hodge, the erstwhile

bully of Fardale!" exclaimed Frank.

"He ain't nobody else," said Miss Burrage. "He's my foreman. All that I know of spot welding—" she sighed girlishly "—I owe to him. And I made nine bucks overtime last week."

"But I have heard," said Frank, "that Hodge has been known to use some flimsy pretext to entice young females on to his tandem bicycle—" here Frank blushed "—completely unchaperoned."

"He's a scorcher, all right," said Miss Burrage, with traces of admiration which Frank could not but deplore.

"Nevertheless," he said severely, "we have been on the tenderest terms for 84 volumes now, but I would never request you to accompany me, unescorted, upon a tandem bicycle. I must ask you—"

"He says he's going to teach me how to drive rivets," Miss Burrage trilled. "It would be ever so wonderful. A girl gets so tired of spot welding."

Frank was forced to smile despite himself at his fiancée's pretty fancies, but he made his voice firm nonetheless.

"Miss Burrage," said he, "in view of the esteem in which I have held you since first you cheered me on to victory in sports of all kinds, I feel it necessary to forbid you to go tandem bicycle riding with that cad Bart Hodge."

"What was that word, Pal?" asked Inza.

"Forbid," repeated Frank, with a winning smile.

Miss Burrage pensively hefted a parcel of rivets she was carrying, thought better of it, and turned to the gate tender.

"Hey, Mike," she called. "This guy here's annoying me."

"He's in again, eh?" said Mike, removing his coat and strolling over. "Listen, buddy, didn't I tell you onct to seram? O. K.—"

"Goodbye Frank," cried Inza in silvery tones, as she skipped down the path.

Frank Merriwell did not reply. Looking back, his affinity thrilled with pride. No one, she thought, ran quite so gracefully as he, and she also pouted when the gateman caught up with him.

BEADLE REPRINTS IN IVERS' AND WESTBROOK'S DEADWOOD DICK AND FRONTIER LIBRARIES

The titles of many of the Beadle reprints in the **Deadwood Dick** and **Frontier Libraries** were changed so much that it is impossible to identify, by their titles alone, their predecessors in the **Half-Dime** and **Pocket Libraries**. I have so often been called upon for this information, that I give it here for the benefit of others who may be interested. The numbers in parenthesis are the **Deadwood Dick** and **Frontier Library** numbers. $\frac{1}{2}$ DL indicates **Half-Dime Library**; PL, **Pocket Library**; *10cPL, **Starr's Ten Cent Pocket Library**; DN, **Dime Novel**; PN, **Pocket Novel**, and *AN, **Starrs American Novels**. The number not given under the **Frontier Library** were reprints of the novel of other publishers, and not Beadle's.

Deadwood Dick Library. (1) 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 1-PL. (2) 20- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 4-PL. (3) 26- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 7-PL. (4) 28- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 10-PL. (5) 35- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 14-PL. (6) 39- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 18-PL. (7) 42- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 22-PL. (8) 3-*10cPL, 45- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 26-PL. (9) 1-*10cPL, 32- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 30-PL. (10) 49- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 33-PL. (11) 53- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 37-PL. (12) 57- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 41-PL. (13) 61- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 45-PL. (14) 69- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 53-PL. (15) 73- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 57-PL. (16) 77- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 61-PL. (17) 156- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 135-PL. (18) 84- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 68-PL. (19) 88- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 75-PL. (20) 96- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 76-PL. (21) 104- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 78-PL. (22) 92- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 83-PL. (23) 100- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 88-PL. (24) 109- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 88-PL. (25) 117- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 96-PL. (26) 125- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 99-PL. (27) 121- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 103-PL. (28) 113- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 107-PL. (29) 133- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 111-PL. (30) 129- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 115-PL. (31) 138- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 119- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL. (32) 141- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 123-PL. (33) 145- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 127-PL. (34) 149- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 131-PL. (35) 80- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 64-PL. (36) 161- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 141-PL. (37) 177- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 147-PL. (38) 181- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 153-PL. (39) 205- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 158-PL. (40) 195- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 163-PL. (41) 201- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 168-PL. (42) 226- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 175-PL. (43) 213- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 188-PL. (44) 240- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 193-PL. (45) 244- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 205-PL. (46) 217- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 212-PL. (47) 221- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 218-PL. (48) 236- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 225-PL. (49) 248- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 231-PL. (50) 253- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 236-PL. (51) 258- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 241-PL. (52) 273- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 247-PL. (53) 277- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 252-PL. (54) 281- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 258-PL. (55) 285- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 264-PL. (56) 296- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 270-PL. (57) 232- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 276-PL. (58) 291- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 282-PL. (59) 263- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 288-PL.

(60) 303- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 1120- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 294-PL. (61) 268- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 300-PL. (62) 209- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 306-PL. (63) 299- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 1119- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 312-PL. (64) 330- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 318-PL. **Frontier Series.** (1) 111-DN, 188-PN. (3) 137-DN, 449-DN. (8) 68-PN, 59-*AN, (26) 207- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL, 180-PL. (28) 443- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL. (30) 309- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL. (32) 321- $\frac{1}{2}$ DL.

Albert Johannsen.

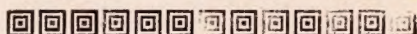
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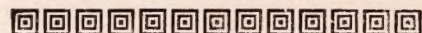
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On many a lark, he sailed his bark,
Where none had gone before,
And filled his hold so full of gold
That it would hold no more.
The sea was smooth, and so, forsooth,
They took a bit of leisure,
And all the crew, good men and true,
A hornpipe danced for pleasure
And had their fling, while Captain
Bing

Kept watch above the treasure.
The wind it blew, and all the crew
Were sorry that it blew so;
If they were wrecked, they might
expect

To share the fate of **Crusoe**,
And float on spars like jolly tars—
All shipwrecked men must do so.
The gale it roared, and all on board
Began to say their prayers,
And Captain Bing began to sing
To drown his many cares;
But when he found that he was
drowned,
It took him unawares.

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FOR SALE

Captain Lightfoot, The Last of the New England Highwaymen, Fully Illustrated. A narrative of his Life and Adventures, with an account of the Notorious Captain Thunderbolt. Captain Lightfoot whose name was Michael Martin, is believed to have been the last person to be hanged for robbery in Massachusetts. Just before his execution, he dictated to a Boston reporter an account of his Life and Adventures, of which created quite a stir at the time that they were published in 1822. Pub. by Wayside Press 1926—Price \$1.00.

Life of Robert DeWitt, Dime Novel Publisher—10c.

The Other Side of the Circus by Edwin P. Norwood, 1928, cloth—\$1.50.

The Boys of '61 by Charles Carleton Coffin, red cloth, 1894—\$2.00.

Sunshine and Shadow in New York by Matthew Hale Smith, 1869, cloth—\$2.00.

Sunshine and Shadow (a different book) by John B. Gough, 1881—\$1.50.

Old Pewter, Brass, Copper & Sheffield Plate by N. Hudson Moore, cloth, 1935—\$1.25.

Frank Gannett. A Biography by Samuel L. Williamson, cloth, 1940—\$1.00.

Life of Gen'l Geo. A. Custer by Frederick Whittaker, cloth, 1876—\$1.50.

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